



Hello, My Name Is Grace

September 20th, 2026

LEAN IN

- Have you ever found it easier to remember someone else's mistakes than your own?
- What makes it difficult for us to honestly acknowledge where we have fallen short?

LOOK UP

Nehemiah 9:16-21

O — OBSERVATION

What does the text say?

Take a few minutes and simply observe the passage before trying to explain it.

- What do you notice and what are you curious about?
- What words or phrases describe Israel's response to God?
- What words or phrases describe God's response to Israel?
- **What stands out to you about what God continues to do even after Israel rebels?**

I — INTERPRETATION

What does the passage mean?

- What do you learn about God?
- What do you learn about humanity?
- Why do you think the people are so honest about their ancestors' rebellion?
- What does this passage teach us about the relationship between confession and grace?

A — APPLICATION

What is my response?

- How are you encouraged, challenged, or convicted by this passage?
- What should be our response to this passage?

- Where might God be inviting you to stop making excuses and simply tell the truth about something in your life?

Key thought: “Our failure is not bigger than God’s faithfulness.”

Shame says, “I am terrible,” and causes us to hide. Repentance says, “I sinned, but there is mercy,” and causes us to run toward God.

- When you recognize sin in your life, are you more likely to hide from God or run toward Him? Why?
- What is one area where God may be inviting you to move from shame into honest repentance?
- Forgiveness is meant to make us different. What might obedience look like for you as a response to God’s grace?

SCRIPTURE

Nehemiah 9:16–21, Romans 8:1, 1 John 1:9

PRAYER

Pray through these movements together:

- **CONFESSION** — “God, show me where I have become stiff-necked, stopped listening, forgotten Your faithfulness, or turned away from You.”
- **GRATITUDE** — “God, thank You that You are forgiving, gracious and compassionate, slow to anger, and abounding in love.”
- **REPENTANCE** — “Jesus, because Your grace has already made a way for me to come to You, help me turn from sin and run toward You.”
- **SURRENDER** — “Holy Spirit, show me what obedience looks like today. Help me surrender not only the big things, but the daily 1- and 2-degree areas where You are calling me into alignment.”

STEP OUT - Put Restoration Into Practice This Week

Let Scripture read you

This week, don't only ask, “**What does this passage mean?**” Ask, “**What is God revealing about me?**” Read Nehemiah 9:16–21 slowly and identify one area where God is inviting you to grow.

Tell the truth

Name one area of sin, struggle, or disobedience before God without minimizing it or making excuses. **Confess it and receive the grace of Jesus.**

Take the next step of obedience

Identify one **specific 1- or 2-degree change** God is inviting you to make this week. Don't try to earn God's love through obedience; **respond to the love you have already received.**

As you practice this together at Gateway, consider bringing that next step into your group, spiritual coaching, or another trusted relationship where someone can encourage you toward obedience.

If you'd like, I can also format this into a **clean, print-ready two-page Gateway handout** with the same visual/wording style as your previous *Digging Deeper* guides.